1: Krasheninnikov N-5 (1736-40) 1764 Kamchadal

the natives *Kuſhi*, and by the *Ruſſians Kuriles*. The exact number of thoſe iſlands cannot be aſcertained; but, according to the verbal accounts which were gathered from the *Kuriles*, and the natives of the ſouthernmoſt iſlands, and from the *Japaneſe*, who were driven by diſtreſs of weather upon the coaſt of *Kamtſchatka*, they are reckoned to be twenty-two. Perhaps they do not take the ſmall ones into this number: for by the account of captain *Spanberg*, who went as far as *Japan*, there appears to be a great many more; but as the ſaid captain found it difficult to give them *Ruſſian* names, all of them that had any relation to the *Kurilskoy* names, except the two that lay neareſt to *Matma Kunatin*, were allowed to keep their former appellations.

Schumtſchu is the neareſt iſland to the *Kurilskaya Lopatka*, and extends in length from the north-eaſt to the ſouth-weſt 50 verſts, and in breadth about 30. This iſland is full of mountains, out of which, as alſo from the ſmall lakes and marſhes, many little rivers run into the ſea. In ſome of them are found different kinds of ſalmon, and ſeveral other fiſh, but not in ſuch plenty as to furniſh the inhabitants with proviſions for a winter. Upon the ſouth-weſt point, near the ſtreight that is between this and the ſecond *Kurilskoy* iſland, are three *Kurilskoy* ſettlements, that contain only 44 inhabitants; ſome of whom pay the taxes in ſables and foxes, but the majority pay them in ſea-beavers' ſkins.

The inhabitants of this iſland, as well as thoſe of the *Kurilſkaya Lopatka*, are not the right *Kuriles*, but are of the race of the *Kamtſchadales*: for ſome diſſentions having ariſen between the inhabitants of that nation, ſoon after the *Ruſſians* entered the country, a large party of them retired here and to the *Lopatka*; where they became connected, by mutual inter-marriages, with the people of the ſecond iſland, whoſe particular cuſtoms they have adopted, and from thence have received the name of *Kuriles*.

The

groups in Kamchatka after being exposed to syphilis, alcoholism, tuberculosis and other consequences of Russian influence, show a marked increase over the former number. But these general observations are not corroborated by statistical figures.

The well-known investigator of Siberia, Patkanoff,[1] has shown that the groups which had adopted a higher system of economical organization (cattle breeding, agriculture, etc.) show a marked increase in population. But these groups do not include the Kamchadal. On the other hand the latest investigators of Kamchatka, the Swedish traveler Bergman[2] and the Russian Gapanovich,[3] attest the same state of affairs as pictured by the author.[4] Only the infusion of fresh blood may save the Kamchadal from extinction. And the Kamchadal are conscious of it. I remember that some Russian adventurers coming from Vladivostok after the Russian-Japanese War were welcomed and adopted by the villagers of the western coast of Kamchatka, and the hunting rights of their territory were extended to them, provided they settle there.

[1] S. A. Patkanoff, *On the Increase of the non-Russian Population in Siberia*, published by the Imper. Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg, 1911 (in Russian).

[2] Sten Bergman, *Vulkane, Bären und Nomaden—Reisen und Erlebnisse im wilden Kamtschatka*, Stuttgart, 1926, Chapter: "Durch sterbende Dörfer längs der Küste des Ochotskischen Meeres," pp. 177–180. German translation from the Swedish.

[3] I. I. Gapanovich, *The Native Population of Kamtschatka*, North Asia, Jour. Social Science, Moscow, 1925, No. 5, pp. 40–62 (in Russian).

4. [i.e., a decline in population due to syphilis, etc. --Analyst]

342 the Siberian tribes, for instance the Yakut and Buryat, have the entrance of their dwellings faced to the east, where the sun rises. The sun is regarded as a benevo-
828 lent deity and it is advisable to have the door facing the sun in order to get its benefits. The back of the dwelling is turned to the west, the abode of evil spirits. The entrance of tents of nomadic peoples (Chukchee, Koryak, Tungus, Yukaghir and others) faces the east for the same reason. On the other hand the door of dwellings of maritime peoples faces the sea in order to give free access to sea-mammals, as though they were visitors. For the same reason the entrance of summer tents of Siberian fishers faces the river. According to Professor Petri the dwellings of the neolithic people of the Baikal region, the remnants of which he discovered, had entrances facing the south, the side of the sun's highest standing. Thus we can comprehend why the channel passage of the old Kamchadal dwelling faced, in some cases, the sea, in others the lake or a river in accordance with food, which one or another water basin supplied.

342 The shape of the pits was mostly oblong rectangular. On the Kuril Lake the pits were more or less quadrangular. The northern pits on the Kavran and Kulki Rivers were almost circular in form, thus nearing the shape of underground dwellings of the Koryak. The channel-passage is fitted in some cases to the middle of the oblong side of the pit and in others to the middle of the transverse side.

The largest pit, 34 by 30 feet, was excavated on the Nalacheva Cape and the smallest, 16 by 15 feet, on the Nalacheva Lake. The length of the channel passage ranges between 7 and 16 feet. With few exceptions, the channel-passage is longer, the larger the pit.

161 As the present remains of the pits of the former pit-dwellings are undoubtedly
592 smaller than the former dwellings themselves, on account of earth and sand deposited by winds and accumulated mold from decayed grass, we may draw the
361 conclusion that the ancient Kamchadal population was rather numerous and Kamchatka was densely inhabited. The pits are very near each other, and the shores of the Nalacheva Lake, as well as other places in Kamchatka, are covered with them. According to Krasheninnikoff, each pit-dwelling sheltered several related families. Often several pit-dwellings were located in one place, forming a village surrounded by earthen walls and trenches.

342 The Kamchadal pit-dwellings were used only during the winter. In the summer the Kamchadal lived in huts on piles several meters high. They were ascended by means of notched logs which could be drawn up to the platform of the huts. At present these elevated huts serve as storehouses. In some places, however, they are still used as summer dwellings (see Plate 4, B).[1]

In the pit excavated on the Osernaya River near the Kuril Lake, no traces of wooden posts were discovered. This may be regarded as a witness of the great age of the pit—the posts having decayed to such a degree that no trace of them is left.

[1] The summer pile-dwelling is also in use among the Gilyak but its posts are not as high as those of the Kamchadal pile-dwelling. The pile-dwelling, as an adoption from Siberia, is also reported from some places in Alaska (see H. P. Steensby, *An Anthropo-geographical Study of the Eskimo Culture*, p. 188). The storehouse on posts is known everywhere in Siberia, as well as in North America.

1. [Plate 4, A (not B) is a photograph of an elevated hut -- Analyst]

7:Lesseps T-3 (1787-88)1790 Kamchadal

563 reſpects they are not diſtinguiſhable from the indigenes, but by their features and idiom.

161/361 With reſpect to the Kamtſchadale village, which forms a conſiderable part of the place, and is ſituated, as I have already ſaid, upon the narrow projection of land which cloſes in the entrance of the port, it is at preſent compoſed of from thirty to forty habitations, including winter and ſummer ones, called *iſbas* and *balagans*; and the number of inhabitants, taking in the garriſon, does not exceed a hundred, men, women and children. The intention is to increaſe them to upwards of four hundred.

13 To theſe details reſpecting the port of St. Peter and St. Paul, and its deſtined improvements, I ſhall add a few remarks upon the nature of the ſoil, the climate, and the rivers.

6:Antropova E-4 (no date) 1964 RY3 Kamchadal RY3

THE ITEL'MENS

V. V. ANTROPOVA

General Information

178 The ancient population of Kamchatka—the Itel'mens—have preserved their language and sense of ethnic identity only in a few villages of the southern part of the Tigil'skiy Rayon of the Koryak National Okrug. By language, the Itel'mens belong, together with the Chukchi and Koryaks, to the northeastern group of paleo-Asiatic peoples. The census of 1926–27 set
• 161 the number of Itel'mens at 814.

The term Itel'men means "resident," "living man." In the documents
101 and literature of the 18th century and later, the Itel'mens were called Kamchadals.

With the exception of the residents of a few villages, the descendants of the Itel'mens have completely merged with the Russians. Officially, they are considered Russians, but the term "Kamchadals" is still used in colloquial speech. However, it is applied not only to the Russified descendants of the Itel'mens, but also to the descendants of Russian Cossacks and peasants settled in Kamchatka in the 18th century. Before the Revolution, these component elements of the Kamchadals belonged to different social classes (Russ. "sosloviya"), but in everything else the Russian-speaking Kamchadals constituted a homogeneous group.

The nearest neighbors of the Itel'mens—the reindeer Koryaks—called them by the same name as the coastal Koryaks: Nymylyn, or "village resident." In the 18th century, the reindeer Koryaks called the Itel'mens Khonchalo, from which some students trace the origin of "Kamchatka" and "Kamchadal."

In the early 18th century, the Itel'mens were scattered virtually over the entire peninsula, from its southern tip to 58° N, interspersed in the north with the Koryaks. The largest concentration was in the valley of the Kamchatka River. At that time, a distinct group of Itel'mens, called "Near Kurilers," lived on Cape Lopatka and the first islands of the Kurile group. This group lived in direct contact with the Ainu (Kurilers) and assimilated with them to a large extent. In physical type, language and certain features of their way of life, the "Near Kurilers" were somewhat different from either the Ainu or the Itel'mens.

197 In the past, the Itel'mens were divided, according to language, into
619 northern, southern and western. The former consisted of Itel'mens living along the Kamchatka River and the east coast, from the village of Uka in the

6:Antropova E-4 (no date) 19 4 RY3 Kamchadal RY3

105 The Itel'mens believed in evil mountain and forest
[776] spirits, the sea-spirit, Mitg, good protecting spirits, etc. Anthropomorphic images of the spirits were usually made of wood.

[793] The central figure of Itel'men mythology was the raven-creator, Kutkh. But he was not held in esteem, and various comical and obscene stories were told about him.

[764] The bodies of dead adults were given to the dogs to eat; children were
[756] buried in hollow trees. The Itel'men shamans did not have any special clothing or tambourines.

[799] In the middle of the 18th century, the Itel'mens were converted to Christianity, but they continued to cling to their animistic ideas.

Information about the abundance of fur on Kamchatka received from Luka
175 Morozko and Atlasov attracted the attention of the tsarist government and
648 the Yakutiyan governors.

A special official—a prikashchik—was appointed to collect taxes. The Kamchatka prikashchiks, who were virtually the full masters of the peninsula, often abused their power. In addition to the fur-tax, they exacted from the population great quantities of furs for their own enrichment. The predatory extermination of fur animals, and most of all, sable, sharply reduced the catch, and the Itel'mens were often unable to pay the tax in full. The arbitrary extortion of cured fish, "sweet grass" for wine-making, lily tubers, berries, cedar nuts, seal blubber, skins, and even sleds, boats and clothing, for the benefit of the tax collectors became systematic. In addition to all this, the natives suffered from exploitative trading and its consequences—debt slavery.

175 The Itel'mens' struggle against extortions and oppression expressed
648 itself at first in attacks on individual representatives of the tsarist govern-
669 ment and raids on the tax treasury. Large uprisings broke out in 1706, 1711 and 1731.

The rebellion of 1731 involved nearly all the Itel'mens. After its suppression, a special "investigating office" was sent to the area to look into its causes. The leaders of the rebellion were executed. Some of the officials were also punished.

[161] The quelling of rebellions by armed force and the arbitrary rule of the
[731] local officials reduced the Itel'men population. But the principal reason for the population decline was the epidemics of smallpox, typhus and other
[614] diseases which devastated entire districts. The remnants of the various clans could no longer exist independently and united into larger territorial
[178] units. Thus, instead of the former clan villages, new settlements sprang
[728] up, inhabited by members of various clans. New villages were also created by compulsory resettlement. Thus, after the rebellion of 1731, the inhabitants of the village of Klyuchi were resettled in Kozyrevsk; the inhabitants of Nachiki were moved there from the western coast of the peninsula.

175 The system of tax collection through the village elders and the develop-
648 ment of barter with Russians resulted in the accumulation of private prop-
556 erty in the hands of some individuals. As early as the 1730's, there were
426 toyons (elders) who lent sables to their kinsmen to enable them to pay their tribute, in exchange for subsequent work.

175 The economic condition of the Itel'mens did not improve in the latter half
648 of the 18th century. This was due above all to the system of tax collection and the tyranny of the local authorities. Taxes were collected, not from the present population, but according to lists, which included men long dead. The living thus had to pay taxes for dead relatives. Extremely onerous, too,
[466] was the imposition of the duty to transport numerous officials, as well as cargo, without compensation all over the peninsula. This took the men away from their occupations and condemned them to frequent periods of famine.

7:Lesseps T-3 (1787-88)1790 Kamchada'

000 found, and feels an inſtant deſire to repoſe in him all its confidence. The ſight of M. Steinheil imparted to me this delicious ſenſation. There was in his converſation, from the very firſt moment, an irreſiſtible attraction. I felt a ſort of craving to ſee him, to talk with him; it had the effect of a charm, though his French, as I have ſaid, was not the moſt pure, and was pronounced with the German accent. I ſpent the day of 4 February with the baron, and in the evening M. Kaſloff arrived as he had previouſly informed me.

161 / 361 / 756 / 609 / 797 The oſtrog of Machoure, before the introduction of the ſmall-pox, was one of the moſt conſiderable in the peninſula; but the ravages of this cruel diſeaſe, have reduced the number of inhabitants to twenty families.

All the Kamtſchadales of this village,

18: Yarmolinsky--3 L-4 (no date) 1947 Kamchadal
161

"Of the 4,137 Kamchadals recorded in the Soviet census of 1926 only about 800 persons inhabiting eight villages in the Talgi district of the Kamchatka Region spoke Itelmen."

24: Lansdell-638 [2] M-2 (1879) 1882 Kamchadal
116, 133, 161, 226, 361

" The number of the Kamchatdales, strictly so called, is estimated at 3,000. Their capital is Petropavlovsk, the only town on the eastern coast of the peninsula.(1)

1. It is situated on the right shore of the splendid Bay of Avatcha, which may claim with Rio Janeiro and San Francisco to be one of the finest harbours in the world. It is perfectly protected from the winds, and, transplanted to a more favourable position, it might be one of the greatest of markets; but since the fishery of the whale in the surrounding seas has lost its importance, Petropavlovsk has sunk from a place of 1,000 inhabitants to one of 500. Mr. Dobell, who lived in the peninsula five years, says that he found there many dykes and mounds, from the existence of which he argues that the country was once thickly populated."

22: Guillemard T-2 (1882) 1886 Kamchadal

000 onlooker it would seem as if we were deliberately beaching the vessel. "Starboard! hard a-starboard!" comes the order. "'Ard a-starboard," echoes the man at the wheel. "Hard a-port!" "'Ard a-port it is," he sings out, clawing the wheel towards him with foot and hand. "Well! I'm blessed if ever I see the likes of this 'ere place," I hear Jack mutter as we are safely berthed, and, on the whole, I am very much inclined to agree with him.

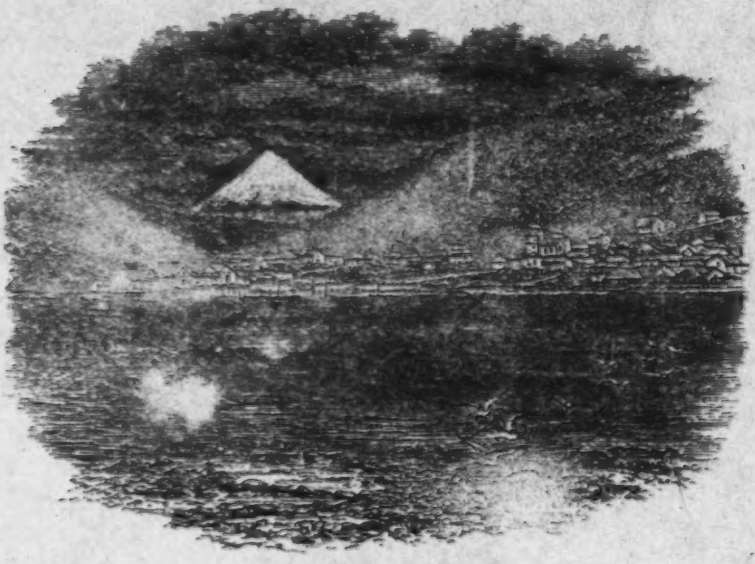
505 Our arrival created no little excitement among the inhabitants of this remote little spot: it might possibly have created even more had we not entered the harbour almost at the moment of departure of the yearly fur steamer for Japan *viâ* Okhotsk. All Petropaulovsky had assembled to wave their adieux, and not a few of them appeared torn by the conflicting desires of seeing the last of their friends and of discovering the business of the new-comers. 161 The steamer was hardly under way before we were receiving our 361 visitors. They were but limited in number. Petropaulovsky, in 342 spite of the imposing letters to which it is treated in the maps, is, after all, little more than a hamlet, and is probably stationary, if not actually decreasing, with regard to population. Clerke, in 1779, found the settlement consisting of thirty huts built upon the sand-spit to which I have already alluded, and consisting mostly of yourts or balagans.[1] Captain Cochrane, who in 1821 performed the unprecedented feat of walking across Siberia from Russia to Kamschatka, describes it as having increased to fifty-seven buildings, some of which were on the mainland; and at the period of the Crimean war it appears to have been as large as it is at the present time, if not actually larger. The town had been transferred to the head of the little harbour, where it now stands, and boasted of no less than two hundred edifices of all kinds. But in Kamschatka, as in other northern countries, winter storehouses, fish-drying sheds, and other out-buildings are so numerous, that the actual dwelling-

[1] A yourt is a semi-subterranean winter dwelling, roofed with turf. The balagans are only used in summer: they are rough wooden buildings erected on piles. The upper part serves as the dwelling-house, while, beneath, the salmon are hung up in rows to dry.

22: Guillemard T-2 (1882) 1886 Kamchadal

361 houses may be reckoned at about one-third of that number. Kittlitz,
161 in 1829, found the settlement to number about two hundred inhabitants, and at the time of our visit we were informed that there were over three hundred; a number that I should myself be inclined to think overstated.

133 Standing on the now deserted sand-spit,—the natural break-
361 water of the harbour,—the view of the little town and its surround-



PETROPAULOVSKY HARBOUR.

ings is strikingly picturesque. To the left is the wooded promontory, the scene of the unfortunate disaster which occurred to the forces of the Allied Fleet in 1854. On the right a hill of some fifteen hundred feet dominates the town, whose log huts are clustered around the shores of the little bay. Here and there a white-painted house of greater pretension strikes the eye, and a stunted grove of trees shelters the church, and the graveyard studded with Russian crosses. Behind the town, artistically filling in the gap

22: Guillemard T-2 (1882) 1886 Kamchadal

231 go along, an annoying habit of which it was impossible to break them. Their ordinary load is from six to seven pood.[1]

133 361 491 It was not long before the presence of some large poplars ahead, combined with certain whiffs of decaying fish, to which no description can do justice, warned us that we were in the neighbourhood of a river; and the howls of sledge-dogs presently greeted us as we arrived at the settlement of Gunal. We found some of the inhabitants engaged in making a bridge,—really a very creditable affair, as the river here is about twenty-five yards broad, with a channel some six feet or more in depth. Above the village this stream—the Bolchaia-reka, or Great Bolcheresk River—splits into two or three branches, which reunite a quarter of a mile lower, after having received two rapid, but shallow little affluents from the west.

144 161 177 361 771 793 Gunal is a most picturesquely-situated little hamlet of about twenty huts, and has a population of ninety-four souls, who are all, without exception, the descendants of Russians who established themselves here with Kamschatdale wives in the last century. The latter people are now rare as a pure race, excepting upon the western side of the peninsula. The Gunalians are all Christians, and have built themselves a church,—a small log-cabin surmounted with a cross. Within the same enclosure, but separate, just as in Northern Sweden, is a little belfry with a single bell, time-worn and defaced. Owing to its inaccessibility, we were unable to read the inscription with which it was adorned. The church is parsonless. There are but three popes for the whole of the vast district lying between Petropaulovsky and the mouth of the Kamschatka River. Here the nearest is at Melcova, a hundred versts or more away; and once in every four months he comes in, marries and buries such of his parishioners as need it, holds service, and departs. He has not much to do, for the people are both apathetic and long-lived. In the little churchyard hard by there were scarcely twenty graves. They were marked by Russian crosses with a little

[1] A pood is equal to 36 lbs. English.

22: Guillemard T-2 (1882) 1886 Kamchadal

Of the number of sables killed annually in Kamchata it is
224 difficult to form an estimate. The greater portion no doubt are
438 exported *vid* Petropaulovsky, this port draining the large extent
434 of country in the region of the Kamschatka River, but a good
563 many must find their way to Bolcheresk, and some others to Tigil, a settlement in the northern part of the peninsula which has only a difficult communication with the villages on the lower part of the Kamschatka. In Petropaulovsky almost all the skins pass through the hands of the "King of Kamschatka," and the number exported by him for the season of 1882 was over two thousand. The profit on each skin probably averaged at least forty shillings, and it must be allowed that, however gloomy the outlook in Hudson's Bay and elsewhere may be, there is at least one part of the world where the fur-trade is not "played out."

We left camp again on the morning of August 30th, and after two hours' travelling came to the little village of Puschina, if village indeed it can be called. It now appeared that Vodki's plan had been to get us on to this place if possible, partly because he preferred a hut to tent life in wet weather, and partly, according to
161 Afanasi, because he was afraid of the bears. Puschina consists of
177 three huts only, with the usual proportion of fish-drying sheds,
361 and boasts of a population of fifteen souls. In 1737, according to Lesseps, it was larger than Gunal. The inhabitants appeared dirty and miserable creatures, and were more of the true Kamschatdale type than any others we had yet come across. One or two of the huts or storehouses were raised above the ground on pillars, and much resembled a Norwegian *stabur* in appearance, except that there was a complete absence of carving. It is rare to see any settlement in Kamschatka which is not placed actually on the banks of a river, but Puschina, standing two or three hundred yards away, is one of the exceptions, probably owing to the fact that the banks of the stream are here very low, and the rise of the river during the period of the melting of the snows is often very considerable.

We rested our horses and obtained a draught of fresh milk

[see page 74--Analyst]

22: Guillemard T-2 (1882) 1886 Kamchadal

114 136 remains of many half-eaten fish lay on the banks. The bears are said by Kittlitz and others only to eat the head and upper part when the salmon are plentiful, but in almost every case we found that, though the head had been crunched up, it had, together with the tail and intestines, invariably been rejected. We were never fortunate enough to witness these animals fishing, but we were told that they walk slowly into the water where it is about eighteen inches in depth, and facing down stream, stand motionless awaiting their prey. The incautious fish, swimming heedlessly up the river, doubtless mistakes the bear's broad legs for a rock or tree-stump, and those who have once witnessed the almost lightning-like rapidity of a stroke from Bruin's fore-paws will have no difficulty whatever in completing the drama for themselves. The fish is apparently always taken to the bank to be devoured, for even the small ones do not seem to be eaten whole.

552 144 157 161 177 361 Sherowmy, or Sherowm,—for the Kamschatkans are fond of clipping the exuberance of their words, and turn Kamakoffskaya into Kamaki,—is a pretty little village of nine houses and forty-three inhabitants, situated on a branch of the Kamschatka River close to its junction with the latter. To the south lie a few acres of level grass and land enclosed by rough fencing, which give a home-like effect and an air of permanence which is wanting in most Kamschatkan settlements; while to the west and north flows the river, its banks thickly clothed with trees. The people, although a more or less mixed race, as are those of all the villages we had hitherto visited, nevertheless exhibited strong evidences of their Kamschatdale origin, and the high cheek-bones and general duskiness of complexion were in some cases very noticeable. They were very civil and willing to help us; and later in our journey we learnt to hail the preponderance of the Kamschatdale element with pleasure, for we then felt sure of meeting with none of the surliness of demeanour and barefaced extortion that seemed to be the leading characteristics of the half-breed Siberian Russians.

22: Guillemard T-2 (1882) 1886 Kamchadal

136 yellow foxes (*Vulpes fulvus*), who sat inspecting us curiously as we floated down, and were none the worse for their temerity. According to our hunters, these animals are not nearly as common now as formerly, though from what reason it is difficult to say, as the skin is of no great value, and they are in consequence not much hunted. Ducks of the kinds I have already mentioned were in great numbers, and the Merganser (*M. serrator*) also seemed fairly abundant. It was of course impossible for us to reach Werchni Kamschatka before nightfall, so, having made about forty versts, we landed on one of the broad pebbly beaches, where the spring freshets had already collected abundant firewood 252 for us, and pitched our camp. The Sherowmy men had a simple but effective plan of cooking duck that I had never seen before. The bird is plucked with care, so as to leave the skin unbroken, and is not drawn. A stick is forced down the throat, and the other end stuck into the ground close to the fire. The effect produced when a party of a dozen are thus cooking their suppers is not a little absurd: it is as if the camp-fire had burst into a perfect girandole of naked ducks, who fly quacking from it in open-mouthed alarm.

We had hitherto been favoured with far finer weather than that usually to be expected during late autumn, but the next day dawned threateningly, and before long fulfilled its promise to the utmost. A pall of thick leaden clouds with ragged edges hung over us, and a steady downpour that showed every prospect of 161 continuance soon commenced. Hour after hour we paddled on 721 through the driving rain, and it was not until after mid-day that 361 we stepped ashore, wet and cold, at the hamlet of Werchni Kams- R chatka. Like most of these places, it is composed of a bare dozen 177 of huts, with a total population of less than fifty souls; but it . 72 enjoys the distinction of being the only settlement on the Kamschatka River that is marked on the English chart of the country. In bygone days it may have merited it, for it was one of the first *ostrogs* established by the Russians after their conquest of the

22: Guillemard T-2 (1882) 1886 Kamchadal

161/133/361 Emerging from the eastern entrance of the narrows we found ourselves passing through a flat, uninteresting plain which extended as far as the sea. Here the scenery is scarcely more interesting than that at the mouth of the Thames. A cold wind swept over the dreary reaches of the river, and behind us an ink-black sky gave warning of approaching bad weather. At 4 P.M. we passed Nischni or Lower Kamschatka, once the capital of the peninsula, a village of some importance with twenty houses and a church, and a population of 150. It lies a little way off the main river upon a smaller stream, and just opposite, upon the other bank of the Kamschatka, the Raduga, a river about forty yards wide at its mouth, flows in 000 from the south. A canoe shot out to intercept us as we passed, bringing a letter for Petropaulovsky from the Kluchi pope, who had left that village just before us on the preceding day, and shortly afterwards we saw another boat paddling hard after us. We stopped to let it approach, and soon recognised Jacof, whose gloomy face told us that Verglaski had not been found. He had apparently gone down the river for some distance, and had then turned back and proceeded towards Kluchi. Here the track had become obliterated, and Jacof had been obliged to give up the search. Poor old Verglaski; his quiet methodical ways had endeared him to all of us, and Jacof was much distressed at his loss. In the summer he would have had no difficulty in finding enough to subsist on, but at this season hardly any fish were left, and the settlements being so far apart, and upon the other side of the river, it was more than doubtful if he would ever have a chance of reaching one of them.

Paddles were once more resumed, and we were discussing the advisability of proceeding to the mouth of the river without stopping, when we perceived the smoke of a steam launch in the distance. By our glasses we soon made her out to be a stranger, and all doubts as to the arrival of the *Marchesa* were thus at an end. She proved to be the launch of the walrus-schooner *Nemo*, bound to Nischni Kamschatka. She had on board the first officer—

27: Sauer--293 T-2 (1789-93) 1802 Kamchadal
116, 161, 361

"I have already mentioned the situation of the town Neizshnoi Kamtshatka, which contains 80 isba's, or houses, with two churches; and its number of inhabitants, including children, 548 souls; latitude 56° 33'."

27: Sauer--293-294 T-2 (1789-93) 1802 Kamchadal
116, 161, 361 Russia
636.71

"The villages on this coast [CMC: i.e., the western coast of Kamchatka] are, Tigilsk, Itshinsk, and Bolshoiretsk (situated on the Tigil, Itsha, and Bolshoia rivers). Of these the former is the most considerable, containing 45 wooden houses, and one church. The Russian charts place it in latitude 57° 55'. This, which they call a fortified town, is surrounded by wooden palisades, and was built in 1752. The num-[294]ber of inhabitants are 338, including women and children. Itshinsk also contains a church, and about 10 houses, with 50 inhabitants. Bolshoiretsk contains 37 houses, and the total number of inhabitants are 235. Beside these, there are eight inconsiderable villages, containing each three or four houses, on the west coast."

27: Sauer--298 T-2 (1789-93) 1802 Kamchadal
116, 133, 136, 137, 161

"Near the mouth of this harbour [CMC: of Tareinsk in Avacha Bay], on its north-west borders, is a valley forming a plain of about one mile and a half square, well wooded with good sized birch trees: a situation which Major Behm thought the most eligible of any hereabouts for a town. North and south are lofty mountains of easy ascent, covered with trees to their summit. The valley is bounded to the west by a fresh water lake of about 15 miles in circumference, well stocked with fish all the year through; while its borders abound in different kinds of berries, sarana, tsheromtsha (a kind of wild garlick), and a variety of pot herbs. This lake is the chief source of the river generally known by the name of the Paratounca, of which I shall shortly give an account, as also of the other rivers. The remains of numerous villages in the vicinity of this lake strongly indicate the former popolousness of these parts; but they are at present overrun with bears, wolves, and hares."

27: Sauer--306-307 T-2 (1789-93) 1802 Kamchadal-1-2
116, 161, 563, 651 Russia
636.65

"The number of inhabitants may be stated as follows, men, women and children:

At the town (Neizshnoi) - -	548
Ostrog Tigil - -	338
Virchnoi - -	226
Bolshoiretsk - -	235
And at the harbour of St. Peter and St. Paul - -	85
Colonists - - -	255
Russians - - -	1687
Kamtshadals - - -	1053
Total - - -	2740

Of the natives 351 males only pay tribute, or, rather, are living on the list of those who are tributary, according to the revision [307] made during the government of Mr. Reinikin, who succeeded Major Behm. The revisor (in 1784), by some unaccountable mistake, has frequently noted the name of one and the same person as the inhabitant of two or three villages; and from each village the tribute is exacted for this man. They have made repeated remonstrances, but in vain: this imposition, however, is the least

of their sufferings. They are compelled to pass the greater part of their time in procuring necessaries for their visitors. The governor makes his annual circuit round the peninsula, and receives a present from every individual; the captain of the district goes his rounds twice; different deputations from the courts of justice, soldiers on furlough, couriers, &c. all travel at the expence of the poor native, who is compelled to keep an extraordinary number of dogs for their conveyance. Government horses are quartered at each village, and the inhabitants must provide a stock of hay for them. Thus the Kamtshadal scarcely finds time to collect a supply of food in the fishing season for his own family."

28: Sarytschew--61 T-1 (1789-90) 1806 Kamchadal
116, 133, 161, 361

"On the Koschka [CMC: a jutty of land at the entrance to Petropavlovsk harbor; see category 133, this source, pages 60-61] there are eight dwelling-houses, interspersed with several buloganen; or log-houses, and on the north shore of the haven are four, together with a wooden building for an hospital, and the store-houses built during the expedition of Commodore Behring, which are still in good condition. The number of the inhabitants is limited to eleven Kamtschadales, one ensign from the army, and 23 Kosaks. The country around the haven is mountainous, but the north and east sides have sufficient level ground for 300 houses."

29:Cochrane T-2 (1821-22)1824 Kamchadal

000 ter which, on a beautiful frosty moon-light morning, I resumed the journey over a picturesque and mountainous country, well wooded and watered. Late at night we reached a small place called Apachinsk, forty-five miles. Ere we arrived we had to cross the river called Bolshaya in a canoe, the river not being frozen, a circumstance at this time of the year very
361 rarely known. Thirty-miles farther we reached the
161 ancient capital of Kamtchatka, Bolcheretzk, now a small village containing fourteen dwellings, one hundred and sixteen inhabitants, and about thirty
000 balagans, i. e. sheds for drying fish. The path to it was over a flat level along the river. I was myself the driver towards the abode of my now father-in-law, whose homely manners, numerous, healthy, smiling children, and hearty breakfast, made ample amends for the fatigues of the last two days.

Bolcheretzk stands on the river of its own name, about fifteen miles from the sea of Okotsk, and has little to boast of at present but the affectionate remembrance the inhabitants bear to the memory of Major Behm, so highly spoken of by Captain King. I heard, also, strange stories of the celebrated Benjofsky, who made his escape hence to Canton, having previously murdered some people, and fomented an insurrection. I heard nothing in his favour, although an old lady, afterwards my aunt,
563 was a companion of his. I found Bolcheretzk to be inhabited by a civil people, all Russians: but
000 were it otherwise it might be expected I should

29:Cochrane T-2 (1821-22) 1824 Kamchadal

000 those I had, and then proceeded upon my journey, reaching by midnight Kickchick, twenty miles, a place of equal wretchedness with the last, and like it containing but fourteen or fifteen inhabitants, most of whom are disabled from work by disease. With the same dogs I reached Kolofsky ostrog thirty miles along the sea coast, upon which a tremendous surf was roaring with a strong north-west wind. There are in the neighbourhood several fine lakes which never freeze, and produce trout and salmon peal of a fine flavour during the whole of the winter. Deer, mountain sheep, and game of every description that is found in the Peninsula abound in the mountains and forests, and fine meadow lands every where skirt the coast.

133 I remained to take tea with the old Toion, whom
563 I found to be a fiddler and a scholar, and depart-
361 ed for Vorofskoy ostrog, forty miles. The mountains now approached nearer to the sea-coast, and present some beautiful scenery. I put up at the abode of a wealthy Russian farmer, and felt highly gratified
161 in observing a small but fat herd of cattle. This is
361 considered a rich spot, yet it contains only nine
133 dwellings with about forty inhabitants, not enough to keep up the chase. The place is prettily situated on the Vorofskaya river, about four miles from the sea. There is a snug harbour at the mouth of the river, where the transports from Okotsk formerly visited, and the river is navigable to the village which retains the vestiges of a small fortress. The meadow lands about it are at once

29:Cochrane-T-2(1821-22)1824 Kamchadal

133 extensive and luxuriant. The inhabitants provided
361 me with frozen fish, a delicacy I had so much en-
161 joyed on the Kolyma, with ducks and rein-deer meat, as also with dogs to resume the journey, which carried me to Kolpakofskoi ostrog, thirty miles, along a dreary sea beach. The village contains six dwellings and twenty people, who furnished me with dogs to Kroutogorova thirty miles further, a beautiful situation near the extremity of the almost level plane reaching from hence to Bolcheretzk. The famous Sopka, i. e. burning mountain, near Tchinsk, here becomes visible, and although the country is so rich, not a head of cattle is to be met with from Vorofskaya.

To Tchinsk are thirty miles of superior country, yet so deep in snow that we were obliged to take it by turns to go a head with snow shoes, at other times the government of a narte was thrown upon me, which I at first made but a bungling hand of. Tchinsk has twelve dwellings, it is consequently a considerable place! there are also two priests, brothers, whom I found drinking a
576 decoction of dried herb instead of tea. I felt angry with the Toion who had let slip eight dogs intended for me, and declined entering his dwelling, the strongest mark of displeasure which can be shown to these simple people. The poor fellow felt the slight so severely as he saw me entering another yourte, that I could not help regretting the deter-
361 mination I had made. To Soposhna it is thirty-five miles, which I travelled in company with the

29:Cochrane T-2 (1821-22)1824 Kamchadal

361 reverend pedlers, for every body here is a mer-
161 chant. I made them happy by a pound of tea, a
133 few pounds of tobacco, and a bottle of spirits. The road was very fine and the weather had much increased in cold, so much so, that the thermometer stood at 25°, which I had never before seen in Kamtchatka above 18°. Thence to Morososhna, thirty miles of a good road. The last named village may be termed large, containing eighteen dwellings and a hundred inhabitants, in the enjoyment of many luxuries, yet without cattle. Thence the road lay along the foot of the mountains, the scenery of which gives a relief to the eye as it is in general uninteresting all the way to Bolcheretzk, except at a few places. Upon the road to Belagolofsk ostrog, thirty-five miles, I got twice upset into the river without the means of drying or changing my clothes, and suffered much, in consequence, in my feet. I had a fine view of the magnificent Ichinskaya Sopka or mountain, which continued visible until I reached Khariuzova forty miles, the road to which is in general good, though there are some parts dangerous in the night time. The ice from the rapidity of the current, frequently sunk under us, but from our velocity of movement no accident happened.

487 At midnight I continued on for Kovranskoy os-
R trog, twenty-two miles. There is here a law oblig-
177 ing the Toions to have a path made within twenty-
.48 four hours after every snow storm. Our chief had failed in his duty in this particular, and conse-

29:Cochrane T-2 (1821-22) 1824 Kamchadal

487 R 177 .48 quently was obliged to go before upon his snow shoes; and such was his diligence from fear of reprehension, that he not only arrived before me, but arrived in five hours, a very short time to accomplish such a journey upon snow shoes. I found it the most miserable place I had seen for a long period, reminding me of Zashiversk in northern Siberia. The brows of the hills are covered with brush wood, with little other appearance of nature.

133 161 361 From hence to Uskolofskoy ostrog are thirty-five miles, which I was obliged to do by walking and alternately driving a narte, and cannot say which of the two is the most fatiguing. The diseases prevalent in the place prevented almost any assistance being rendered us. There are no cattle, yet fine meadow lands. Fish and game are abundant. At this place I met with another old shipmate in the person of the brandy contractor, who accompanied me to the next station, Napanas, a village with six dwellings and forty people. The road leading to it is considered dangerous, owing to a large toondra or swampy desert which must be crossed; the distance is forty miles. We passed the desert in a slight fall of snow, which had not been sufficient to obliterate the marks of the track, else we must have been compelled to halt whenever the snow overtook us. I did not arrive until two o'clock in the morning, having been previously hurled down a snowy declivity of one hundred feet in depth: at the bottom of which, I, guide, dogs and narte all lay huddled together; however vexed I felt inclined to

29:Cochrane T-2 (1821-22) 1824 Kamchadal

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Tygil stands on the river of its own name, at thirty miles from the sea. The country round it has somewhat of the picturesque during the summer, but its situation in winter is exposed and dreary. A range of mountains from the NE to the SE defend it in some degree from the coldest winds, yet it is on the whole but a poor place. There are at present twenty-seven dwellings and two hundred and

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fifty inhabitants, and it is denominated a fortress; formerly it may actually have been one, but at present will be best appreciated as to its strength by a reference to George's Travels in Siberia, who, speaking of fortresses or ostrogs, the latter word comprehending Siberian fortresses, says, "It would be dangerous to attempt storming them, for whoever wanted to mount the greatest and only bulwark, a wooden paling, would most probably come to the ground with the whole structure about him." Such I am certain is the present state of Tygil, and which, with its half dozen Cossacks, can only be held *in terrorem* over the neighbouring Koriaks: the Kamtchatdales are not a people numerically or physically strong enough to create a disturbance.

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The inhabitants of Tygil are all Russians, they have of late got a church and the walls of an hospital erected; when they are to be covered in I know not, though shortly I hope, for they are much wanted. The ravages of a certain disease at this place are indeed dreadful, and I should think ought to call forth the attention of the govern-

29:Cochrane T-2 (1821-22)1824 Kamchadal

000 part of the evening we reached the Yelofka river, which unites not far hence with the Kamtchatka, running in a picturesque manner through the coun-
361 try. At seven we reached the ostrog of Yelofka,
161 fortunate in having crossed the mountains so safely.
133 Yelofka is a pleasant village of eight dwellings and forty-six people, the country round it is elevated and well wooded. We remained only a few hours to refresh ourselves, and then continued the journey along the river of its own name, the banks of which afford some beautiful scenery for about fifteen miles. We then came to a desert which we crossed in a purga, fortunately not very heavy. At forty miles we reached the village of Khartchina of
000 five dwellings and thirty inhabitants. I was welcomed to it by a respectable looking old man, a priest, son to the highly eulogized priest of Paratounka. The son perfectly well remembered Captains Cook and Clerk; he having been at that time a young man, living with his father at the village of Paratounka. Several uninteresting anecdotes were related of them, as also of Perouse, in their rambles of shooting or chasing the wild animals. I had at Yakutsk been recalled to the remembrance of Captain Cook by a silver watch, which now belongs to Captain Minitsky, of the Russian navy, and which, I think, is spoken of somewhere as having been given away by that great navigator to some individual merchant. He probably disposed of it, and thus at last it has fallen into the hands of the pre-

29:Cochrane T-2 (1821-22) 1824 Kamchadal

000 pelled to return. We soon regained the ostrog we had left, and there we passed the night, witnessing such a scene of riot and drunkenness as is quite beyond my pen to describe. My companion had parted with a few bottles of spirits unadulterated, which, when they had operated, induced him again to launch out adulterated spirits, receiving, of course, a sable for each bottle. I was thoroughly convinced from this circumstance that Kamtchatka should not be supplied with spirits.

361 I was mortified at not visiting the town of
161 Nishney Kamtchatsk, and its port, but may say
137 that the former contains twenty-two dwellings, and one hundred and fifty inhabitants, and the latter an accessible port, but much feared for want of being frequented. Formerly, when the seat of government was held there, vessels annually went to St. Peter and St. Paul's for provisions, but this is now no longer the case. Timber abounds in such quantities and of such a quality as should induce the government to fell and to export it to the present capital, where it is much wanted. I reached Cliuchie at midnight, having come over a few lakes
133 and a half frozen river. Cliuchie is a Russian pea-
361 sants' village, containing one hundred and eighty
563 inhabitants. It is pleasantly situated upon the right bank of the Kamtchatka, at the foot of the eastern termination of the lofty peak which is not far from it. This peak is said to be the most elevated in the peninsula, being about fifteen thousand

29:Cochrane T-2 (1821-22) 1824 Kamchadal

563 it is not so, considering how well its central situ-
361 ation is adapted for that purpose. A neat church has lately been erected at the expense of the inhabitants, who are in general disliked by the chiefs and officers, owing to their resisting the payment of individual yasack, or presents. This is surely an enhancement of their character.

563 I quitted the village of Cliuchie perfectly satisfied with the character and conduct of its inhabitants. They preserve a great tenaciousness of their rights, and detestation of the injustice shown to their neighbours, the aborigines. To prove this assertion, I need but mention that with these Cliuchie peasants, I was obliged to pay in money for the hire of the dogs which drew me; a circumstance which had happened to me no where else, and therefore carries the most undoubted proof of exactions, extortions, and cruelty exercised upon the most innocent and inoffensive peo-
132 ple in the world. My route lay from Cliuchie at first over some small lakes, and then along the banks of the Kamtchatka, which at this period of the year, 14th December, O. S. is but half frozen.
361 At twenty-five miles I reached the ostrog called
161 Krestova, having three yourtes and twenty-four in-
164 habitants, nearly all of whom are confined by disease. I continued on with the same dogs to Oushkielova, thirty miles farther, having four habitations and twenty individuals, most of whom also are debilitated: indeed it is extraordinary what

29:Cochrane T-2(1821-22)1824 Kamchadal

164 havoc the introduction of the small pox, and another distemper, made at the ostrogs on the banks
000 of the Kamtchatka. Remarkably fine and extensive meadow lands, attend the traveller all the way from Cliuchie to Kozerofsky, as well as noble forests of timber; and there are seasons when cattle might maintain themselves during the whole of the winter, the snow being then of no great depth; yet there are but few heads of these necessary animals. The scenery to the southward along the banks of the river, is also of the most picturesque and sublime appearance. The magnificent peak soaring to the clouds has a fine effect when viewed from the bed of the river.

361 Kozerofsky, forty miles beyond Oushkielova,
161 contains five dwellings and thirty-six people, and is pleasantly situated. I continued along the river Kamchatka for twelve miles, and then along that of the Tolbachinsk to an ostrog of the same name for thirty miles more. The latter part of the journey was through a crowded forest, and a thick fog, which occasioned me some serious blows, as the dogs made their rapid progress; now and then starting at the scent of a fox or sable. Tolbachinsk is a pretty little village with thirty inhabitants, and appears to be on the improvement; the establishment is a new one and almost secluded from the world. Stchappinat was the next village I came to. It is upon the Kamtchatka, at a deep and narrow part of the river which was not yet frozen

137 enough to bear the nartes. I crossed two other small rivers by bridges for that reason. The scenery was very beautiful, a lofty range of mountains lay to the east with a good deal of fine timber, while the flat country is one fine uninterrupted meadow,
361 without a single cow to feed upon it. Stchappinat
161 has seven dwellings and fifty-two inhabitants, and,
136 it is said, the finest fish in the peninsula, though but
226 few are actually procured from it: they are considered so delicious that the inhabitants send them to the seat of government as presents to the chief and officers. The causes of their comparative scarcity are probably the depth and rapidity of the river, as well as the smallness of the nets; for unless the river be actually swarming with fish, it is seldom that the inhabitants can provide themselves with a sufficient supply.

137 To Massura are forty miles of a well wooded
361 country, and fine meadows upon the banks of the
161 river. I almost flew the distance, being scarcely
234 six hours in performing it. There are ten dwellings and sixty people, civil and hospitable to a proverb; a considerable quantity of cattle are in the neighbourhood, feeding on a rich pasture which runs to Kirgannick twenty-five miles further, where I got sight of the magnificent mountain scenery over hanging Verchney Kamtchatsk. One Sopka
361 (Peak) is especially remarkable. Milkova, a
563 Russian peasant village, ten miles distant contains fifteen houses and one hundred and twenty inhabit-

29:Cochrane T-2 (1821-22) 1824 Kamchadal

133 plane, very subject to storms and heavy falls of
132 snow. I reached the place at nine in the evening.
The inhabitants, amounting to thirty-two, live in
161 four yourtes, and are all afflicted with the disease
164 so common to the peninsula; and the contagion, and
262 want of medicine have been so great, that even the
361 children are equally afflicted, and the complaint of scrofula is become hereditary. In this part of the peninsula the chase is scarce, and the inhabitants mostly subsist upon fish, a few mountain sheep, and wild rein-deer, being the only meat they taste from one end of the year to the other. The situation is fine and highly productive in fish, but at this moment there are not a sufficiency of people to transact the ordinary business; a circumstance which calls aloud for the compassion of the chief.

133 From Ganal to Malka are thirty miles, the first
361 ten of which are over a sterile mountainous country, which is more than compensated by the succeeding richness of a valley eighteen miles in length. I crossed several times the Bistra, a rapid stream, uniting with the Bolshaya Reka, and was again obliged to become pilot, chief, and dog-master; however, I managed very well, and arrived early. Malka is deserving of little notice, yet is said to be celebrated for its baths! The situation is magnificently grand; the hospital stands in the bosom of a lofty chain of elevated mountains at two miles from the village. I was welcomed by two old acquaintances, both of whom

[of Ganal village--Analyst]

29:Cochrane T-2 (1821-22) 1824 Kamchadal

177 pearance there is no difference whatever. They
181 seem a race disburthened of all care and consideration for the future, and entirely resigned to any fate which may await them, whether it be oppression or starvation.

177 In my opinion, and I speak it most sincerely, the
771 aborigines have not derived much benefit from the
793 conquest of their country by the Russians, as even their conversion to Christianity has done little other good, than entitled them to the name of Christians. The great number of priests and deacons (twenty-six in number) would, I presume, suggest an expectation of more learning and piety in this part of the world than in other semi-barbarous places; but really I have never seen any good effects from the labours of these reverend gentlemen. Certainly there is no population corresponding to the number of
161 ecclesiastics, as will appear on considering that the
231 whole Kamtchatdale population does not exceed,
563 male and female, two thousand seven hundred and sixty, while their dogs amount to two thousand two hundred and eight. The number of Russians is one thousand two hundred and sixty. The inhabitants north of Tygil and Nishney Kamtchatks, are four hundred and ninety-eight, while in the Koriak villages there are one hundred souls; making a population of four thousand five hundred and seventy-four, men, women, and children, Rus-
162 sians, Kamtchatdales and Koriaks. Whether the original population has not decreased in a surpris-

29:Cochrane T-2 (1821-22) 1824 Kamchadal

631 money as possible. The very shortest term of a
R chief's command at Kamtchatka should be ten
177 years: let him then only be liberally paid, and I
.63 will venture to say, that many suitable characters will be found, who will prefer to administer justice with clemency and honor, to the degrading of their characters by a mean and derogatory traffic. If an increase of rank, double pay and provisions, an extra pension, and the most unlimited powers are not sufficient to ensure a just discharge of the duties, what besides conscience ever can induce it?

136 Of the Kurile Islands, though they are not now
161 in the government of Kamtchatka, having been
651 ceded by the Emperor in property to the American
R Company, I shall make but a very few remarks,
177 and with them close my observations on Kamt-
.65 chatka.

This chain of islands is divided between the Russian and Japanese empires; of those belonging to the former empire, but few are inhabited. The first Kurile, situate at sixty-five miles from Cape Lopatka, has three yourtes, with four males and eight females, nominally paying as tribute six sea-otters and twelve roubles in money; but, as no sea-otters are found, and the islands abound in foxes, seven of these are received in lieu of them. There is in the island a tolerable road-stead for small craft on the NW side. Immense quan-
237 tities of waterfowl, as ducks, geese, and swans,
291 frequent the place; and from the skins and feathers

29:Cochrane T-2 (1821-22) 1824 Kamchadal

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the inhabitants make their parkas and all their warm clothing, which are also exceedingly comfortable and beautiful. The climate of the islands resembles that of St. Peter and St. Paul's. The soil is generally good, producing fine pastures. On the first isle there was formerly an abundance of cattle, but now only two cows remain.

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The second island, about ninety miles from the first, has seven yourtes, with thirty-five males and forty-two females, paying tribute for itself and the fourteenth isle, nominally, thirty-five sea-otters; that is, twenty-three foxes and one hundred and fifty roubles. The fourteenth isle has three yourtes, fifteen males, and seventeen females. Of the intermediate islands, and those beyond the fourteenth, I could obtain but very little information; the whole are evidently volcanic productions, and are supposed to have been separated by some violent convulsion of nature from the peninsula of Kamtchatka. The islands, which are lofty and bold, are said to be without rivers, nor are there any harbours known. It is to be remembered, however, that they have been but very imperfectly surveyed. The inhabitants are supposed to be of the same origin as those of Kamtchatka, though they differ in the custom of wearing long beards, which was probably introduced among them by the Russians. Their dialect is the same with that of the inhabitants near Cape Lopatka; from whence baidares are frequently sent to the first and second isle, to bring the tribute and furs.

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[the Kurils--Analyst]

1: Kolarz J-4 (no date) 1954 RR1 Siberia

Kamchadal R43
Russian Islands R21

KAMCHADALS

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Soviet propaganda has never been very outspoken about the native people of South and Central Kamchatka – the Kamchadals – for a very good reason. Even Soviet historians could hardly claim that friendship between Russians and Kamchadals (or Itelmeny, as they are now called) ever existed in the past. It is a well-established fact that the presence of Russian Cossacks in Kamchatka provoked endless struggles and revolts in the early part of the eighteenth century. While it is true that many Cossacks lost their lives, it is equally undeniable that the first Russian colonizers wiped out the majority of the Kamchatka natives. Only the fact that Kamchatka is rather unsuitable for European colonization saved the Kamchadals from dying out entirely. While their number, which was about 30,000 before the Russian conquest, had dropped to about one-sixth, their relative strength was still fairly important at the end of the nineteenth century. The census of 1897 showed that the Kamchadals then formed over 48 per cent of the population of their homeland. Russian colonization under the Soviet régime changed things rapidly, to the detriment of the Kamchadals. In 1928 they comprised only one-quarter of Kamchatka's population, and in 1939, at the maximum, only 12 per cent.

In absolute figures there were 4,217 Kamchadals in 1926, but only 868 of them were able to speak their national language; the others were, as far as their culture is concerned, completely Russianized. In Petropavlovsk, the capital of Kamchatka, only 69 Kamchadals were counted in the 1926 census.

'ALEUTIAN NATIONAL DISTRICT'

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East of Kamchatka are the Commander Islands, consisting of Behring Island, where the famous explorer, Vitus Behring, died in 1741, and Copper Island (Medny). The two islands now form the 'Aleutian National District', which was set up in 1932. There are not more than 400 Aleutians in the Soviet Union. Practically all of them live in the 'District' which is to impress the 5,800 Aleuts of Alaska.

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Soviet propagandists have always taken great pride in the cultural successes of the 'Aleutian National District'. Its primary claim to fame is the fact that it was the first administrative unit of the Far East which achieved 100 per cent literacy. However, this triumph was not such a remarkable one as it may seem. Two thirds of the Soviet Aleuts were literate as early as 1926 at a time when the other Far Eastern tribes included only between 1 and 10 per cent of literate people. So the Soviet authorities can hardly take credit for an achievement which in all likelihood was